

REMARKS

By this Amendment, a Substitute Specification, correcting the recitation of the TRADEMARK VELCRO™, is provided, Claims 19-20 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, Claims 2, 4-5 have been canceled, Claims 1, 3, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention or to correct dependences from canceled Claims and new Claim 21 has been added. Also provided therewith is a Rule 132 Affidavit submitting evidence to traverse the rejections based on the prior art references.

Accordingly, entry of the foregoing amendments, approval of the Substitute Specification and reconsideration of the Application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a mark-up version of the changes made to the Substitute Specification and Claims by the current Amendment. The attached versions are respectively captioned: "Substitute Specification with markings showing changes" and "Version with markings to show changes made."

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing corrective amendments to the Specification, rectify the noted informalities helpfully pointed out by the Examiner with regard to the use of the trademark VELCRO™. In that regard, Applicant notes that in the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 of the Substitute Specification, the generic terminology for this trademarked fastener arrangement is provided wherein VELCRO™ tape or strips are defined as strips "having co-acting miniature hooks and loops formed of relatively rigid filament material". Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to Claims 13, 19 and 20 overcome the rejection of Claims 19-20 under 35 USC

112, second paragraph by providing clear and positive recitation of "the building" in independent Claim 13. In that regard, Claim 13 has been amended so as to positively recite "the building" as an element of the Claim thereby providing antecedent basis for the term in Claims 19-20 which depend from Claim 13. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 14, 17-20 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Bussert. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration requested in light of the amendment to independent Claim 13 and the following remarks.

Bussert discloses an interior design scheme using VELCROTM strips to attach a temporary interior window shade to a conventional window 12 inside of a home or office or other building as shown in the Drawing Figures of Bussert. However, Bussert fails to teach or disclose the provision of attaching an external curtain to the external façade of the building to provide a system, as disclosed and claimed in the instant Application, of exterior design as now positively recited by independent Claim 13 from which all the other rejected Claims depend either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 15 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Bussert. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration requested.

As noted above, Bussert discloses an interior design scheme using VELCROTM strips to attach a temporary interior window shade to a conventional window 12 inside of a home or office or other building as shown in the Drawing Figures of Bussert. However, Bussert fails to teach or suggest a system of exterior design including the provision of attaching an external curtain to the external façade of the building using complementary engageable

fastener strips as now positively recited by independent Claim 13 from which ejected Claims 15 and 16 depend either directly or indirectly.

In that regard, the Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in the Bussert reference, either alone or in combination, suggests or teaches the claimed invention and therefore, there is no support for the conclusion that Bussert that the use of VELCROTM tape to attach a curtain to the outside of a building as disclosed and claimed by Applicant would have been obvious. In that regard, exterior curtains are subject to weather conditions such as wind and rain forces that do not in any way effect a curtain in the interior of a building. As supported by the Rule 132 Affidavit submitted herewith, the idea that VELCROTM tape could be effectively used to attach a curtain to the outside of a building is unexpected.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present rejection fails to satisfy the burden of proof necessary to establish a prima facie case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching or generally available knowledge that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to come to the conclusion that the teaching and suggestions of Bussert to use VELCRO to attach a curtain to the interior of a building where the curtain does NOT encounter atmospheric weather forces make obvious the presently claimed invention which discloses the use of VELCRO to attach an exterior curtain, which is subject to atmospheric condition, to the exterior of a building.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration the withdrawal of this rejection.

Moreover, new Claims 21, which depends from rejected Claims 13, is patentable above the cited prior art referenced noted in this rejection. As shown in Figure 1 of Bussert, the VELCROTM strips do not extend along an entire edge of the curtain, but rather, are positioned at discrete, non-continuous and spaced

positions along the edge of the curtain. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits the curtain of Bussert would not be able to withstand the forces that an external curtain would encounter from the weather and therefore, Bussert actually teaches away from the present invention as defined by Claim 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present rejection, as applied to new Claim 21, fails to satisfy the burden of proof necessary to establish a prima facie case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching or generally available knowledge that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to come to the conclusion that the teachings and suggestions of Bussert make obvious the presently claimed invention as defined by new Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hillstrom in view of Phillips. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration requested.

The present invention, as defined by Claims 1-12, relates to a decorative external curtain assembly for attaching a fabric material to an external facade of a building. As recited by amended Claim 1, the curtain assembly utilizes the complementary engageable fastener strips (VELCRO) having co-acting miniature hooks and loops formed of relatively rigid filament material for fastening the fabric material to the external facade of the building to create a temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is can be relatively easily broken by pulling apart the strips, wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips fasten the fabric material to the external facade along an entire edge of the fabric material.

In contra-distinction to the present invention, Hillstrom discloses a banner holding device that uses a spring loaded metal frame device having a channel for holding the banner in place.

The Hillstrom patent fails to disclose or suggest the use of complementary engageable fastener strips (VELCRO) having co-acting miniature hooks and loops formed of relatively rigid filament material for fastening the fabric material to the external façade of the building to create a temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling apart the strips.

As clearly noted by Hillstrom, at Column 1, lines 20-25, "The secure and aesthetic placement of banner-type advertising and message signs on building and wall surfaces is a desired objective today. When the signs are positioned outdoors and subjected to harsh environmental conditions, known devices and systems have frequently proved unreliable." Hilstrom further notes at Column 1, lines 26-34 that known devices for mounting banners outdoors "are unattractive, bulky, expensive.... This is particularly true where the banners are adapted to be placed outdoors where they are subjected to high winds and other harsh conditions."

However, in contradistinction to Hilstrom, Phillips discloses a VELCRO attached arrangement for an ornamental valence treatment for windows "in residences and commercial building." (See Column 1 lines 13-15.) Thus, Phillips suffers from the same deficiencies in teaching as the Bussert reference discussed above because Phillips relates to use of the VELCRO attachment arrangement inside a building where the valence is NOT subject to atmospheric weather conditions including the high winds and other harsh conditions experience by a banner mounted to the exterior of a building. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion or teaching contained in the prior art references that suggest combining the references as proposed by the Examiner. Moreover, there is no support for the conclusion that the use of VELCRO™ tape to attach a curtain to the outside of a building would have been obvious because Hilstrom actually

teaches away from the suggested combination with Phillips by noting that "When the signs are positioned outdoors and subjected to harsh environmental conditions, known devices and systems [such as VELCRO] have frequently proved unreliable." In that regard, exterior curtains are subject to atmospheric weather conditions, such as high wind and rain forces that do not in any way effect a curtain in the interior of a building. As supported by the Rule 132 Affidavit submitted herewith, the idea that VELCRO™ tape could be effectively used to attach a curtain to the outside of a building is unexpected. In fact, the only place that there is a disclosure of the use of VELCRO to attach a banner to the exterior of the building is Applicant's Application as originally filed.

Thus, there is no suggestion in Hilstrom to substitute the VELCRO holding arrangement for the interior curtain assembly of Phillips for the banner holding device of Hilstrom that uses a spring loaded metal frame device having a channel for holding the banner in place to overcome harsh weather conditions encountered by an external curtain. In fact, Hilstrom teaches away from this suggested combination because the banners are adapted to be placed outdoors where they are subjected to high winds and other harsh conditions and interior curtains are not.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated rejection is legally incorrect because there is no teaching within the in the prior art or within the generally knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of Hilstrom and Phillips as suggested by this rejection. That teaching is only found in Applicant's application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submit that the Application is now in a condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of the

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application for all concerned, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan G. Katz".

Susan G. Katz

October ~~27~~, 2004

(610) 270-0170

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel Claims 2, 4-5 and amend Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 13 and 19-20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A decorative external curtain assembly for applying fabric material to an external facade of a building, the assembly comprising:

a sheet of fabric material; [and]

complementary engageable fastener strips [respectively applied to the] for respectively fastening the fabric material to the external facade of the building; and

an attachment arrangement for attaching one of the complementary engageable fastener strips to the building and another of the complementary engageable fastener strips to the fabric material; and

wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips are made of a pair of strips, one strip having co-acting miniature hooks formed of a relatively rigid filament material and another of the strips having loops also formed of a relatively rigid filament material which engage one another to form a bond between the building and the fabric that is broken by pulling apart the pair of strips; and

wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips fasten the fabric material to the external facade along an entire edge of the fabric material.

2. (Cancelled) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips create a temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling apart the strips.

3. (Currently Amended) A decorative external curtain assembly

according to Claim [2] 1, wherein the fastener strips are respectively attached to the building by adhesive and to the fabric material by sewing or adhesive.

4. (Cancelled) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 3, wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips are made of Velcro Tape having co-acting miniature hooks and loops formed of relatively rigid filament material for fastening the fabric material to the external façade of the building.

5. (Cancelled) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 1, wherein complementary engageable fastener strips fasten the fabric material to the external façade a long an entire edge of the fabric material.

6. (Original) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips fasten more than one edge of the fabric material to the external façade of the building.

7. (Original) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the fabric material is made of one of a nature material, a synthetic material and a combination of synthetic and nature materials.

8. (Original) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the fabric material forms at least one of: an external curtain, a valance, a flag, a banner, and an advertising display.

9. (Original) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 1, wherein external façade of the building is at least one of: a porch, a balcony, an eave, a gable, and a roof line.

10. (Currently Amended) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim [2] 1, wherein the building is at least one of a tent, a commercial structure and a residential structure.

11. (Original) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim 10, wherein the commercial structure is at least one of a restaurant and a retail store.

12. (Currently Amended) A decorative external curtain assembly according to Claim [4] 1, wherein the Velcro strip is approximately two inches wide.

13. (Currently Amended) A system of exterior decoration [of an exterior of a building having a façade], the system comprising:

a building having an external façade;
at least one decorative external curtain assembly;
complementary engageable fastener strips for attaching
[applying] the decorative external curtain assembly to [an] the
external facade of [a] the building; and

attachment means for respectively attaching one of the complementary engageable fastener strips to the decorative external curtain assembly and another of the complementary engageable fastener strips to the external façade of the building[,].

14. (Original) A system according to Claim 13, wherein the decorative external curtain assembly is made of fabric.

15. (Original) A system according to Claim 13, wherein the at least one decorative curtain assembly comprises a plurality of decorative curtain assemblies each adapted for display of a different type of motif.

16. (Original) A system according to Claim 15 wherein the different type of motifs include: seasonal displays, holiday displays, advertising displays, autumn, winter, summer and spring displays, informational displays and decorative displays.

17. (Original) A system according to Claim 14, herein the fabric material is made of one of a nature material, a synthetic material and a combination of synthetic and nature materials.

18. (Original) A system according to Claim 17, wherein the fabric material forms at least one of: an external curtain, a valance, a flag, a banner, and an advertising display.

19. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 13, wherein the external façade of the building is at least one of: a porch,

a balcony, an eave, a gable, and a roof line.

20. (Currently Amended) A system [decorative external curtain assembly] according to Claim 13, wherein the building is at least one of a tent, a commercial structure and a residential structure.

Please add new Claims 21 as follows:

21. (New) A system according to Claim 13, wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips are made of a pair of strips, one strip having co-acting miniature hooks formed of a relatively rigid filament material and another of the strips having loops also formed of a relatively rigid filament material which engage one another to form a bond between the building and the fabric that is broken by pulling apart the pair of strips; and

wherein the complementary engageable fastener strips fasten the fabric material to the external façade along an entire edge of the fabric material.



A DECORATIVE EXTERNAL CURTAIN ASSEMBLY AND SYSTEM FOR

EXTERIOR DECORATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

This invention generally relates to a novel decorative curtain assembly for application to the exterior of buildings and similar structures, and more particularly to a decorative external curtain assembly which is adapted for ease of application and removal to create a system of exterior decoration for application to the exterior of buildings that provides decorative and commercial displays in a manner that takes advantage of a full range of artistic expression.

2. Background of the Invention:

It is well known to hang flags and banners from a porch using poles during a Fourth of July celebration or from the façade of a retail store or restaurant to advertise a holiday sale. Such display arrangements, however, are limited by their ability to adapt the display to the structure variations in the façade of the building and thereby fail to provide a full range of possible decorative displays available for application to the exterior of a building.

In that regard, merely hanging a flag or banner from a pole or over the edge of balcony is quite a restrictive expression which does not consider application of fabric like materials to the varied recesses and surface features of the façade of a building and its ancillary exterior structures such as a balcony.

In addition to the foregoing noted limitations, known arrangements for supporting and attaching flags and banners, such as flag pole holders and

grommet fastening, are limited in their application to the façade of the building, require support structures that anchor into the building and therefore cannot be easily or inexpensively applied to the building.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a decorative, external curtain assembly for decorating the external facades of building structures that overcomes the deficiencies of the prior art.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative, external curtain assembly for application to building structures to create a system of exterior decoration whereby building structures, such as houses, restaurants, retail stores, tents, apartment buildings and office high-rises, having facades and ancillary exterior structures, such as porches, balconies, eaves, gables, roof lines are decorated using fabrics and/or flexible sheet materials for display for any occasion such as during national holidays, festivals as well as for advertising purposes.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative external curtain assembly and system of exterior decoration that is versatile in their ability to apply external curtains, such as, valances, flags, banners, advertising displays, to almost any type of exterior building façade.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a decorative external curtain assembly and system that is simple to use and inexpensive to make and use.

One particular advantageous feature of the present invention afforded by

1 the easy of application of the decorative external curtain assembly is that it
2 provides for a system of exterior decoration that allows for changes of exterior
3 decoration to accommodate different seasons, holidays and even for an
4 appropriate day or night look.

5 Another advantageous feature of the present invention is that the
6 decorative external curtain assembly provides an easy and affordable basic
7 design element of the system of exterior decoration for manipulating the look,
8 mood and atmosphere of an exterior of a building as well as an associated
9 exterior area, such as a courtyard, plaza or the like.

10 These and other objects, advantages and features of the present
11 invention are achieved, according to one embodiment, by a decorative external
12 curtain assembly for applying fabric material to an external facade of a building,
13 the assembly comprising: a sheet of fabric material and complementary
14 engageable fastener strips respectively applied to the sheet of fabric material
15 and the external facade of the building for fastening the fabric material to the
16 external facade of the building.

17 According to a further embodiment of the present invention, the
18 complementary engageable fastener strips are made of VELCRO™ tape to
19 create a temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is easily
20 broken by pulling apart the VELCRO™ strips. The VELCRO™ strips are
21 respectively attached to the building, for example, with any existing adhesive or
22 hot glue and to the fabric material either by sewing or adhesive.

23 According to the present invention, there is further provided a system of

1 exterior decoration of a building having a facade, the system comprising: a
2 decorative external curtain assembly for applying fabric material to an external
3 facade of a building, the assembly comprising: a sheet of fabric material and
4 complementary engageable fastener strips respectively applied to the sheet of
5 fabric material and the external façade of the building for fastening the fabric
6 material to the external façade of the building to create a temporary bond
7 between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling by pulling the
8 fastener strips apart.

9 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of the novel decorative curtain
11 assembly of the present invention applied to the external façade of a building
12 comprising a porch on the front to a detached single family dwelling;

13 Figure 2 depicts the complementary engageable fastener strips, made, for
14 example of VELCRO™ tape;

15 Figure 3 illustrates the application of further embodiments of the present
16 invention applied, for example to a commercial business structure as a way for
17 offering an easy and versatile means whereby small, franchise or museum
18 enterprises can advertise and communicate changes in product, prices,
19 decorations, and the like;

20 Figure 4 illustrated yet another embodiment of the present invention
21 applied to a façade of temporary, outdoor structure such as a tent; and

22 Figure 5 illustrates still a further embodiment of the present invention as
23 applied to a multi-story building having different types of facades.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Referring to Figure 1, one embodiment of a novel decorative curtain assembly according to the teachings of the present invention is generally indicated at 11 and illustrated as applied to the external façade 15 of a building 17. In the illustrative example of Figure 1, the external façade 15 comprises a porch on the front the building 17, for example, a detached single-family dwelling or home. The decorative curtain assembly 11 is adapted to apply decorative fabric material 19, illustrated here as pleated fabric, to the external facade 15 of the building 17.

Generally indicated at 21 are complementary engageable fasteners, such as, for example, made of VELCRO™ tape or strips, that are used to attach the decorative curtain assembly 11 to the external facade 15. The complementary engageable fasteners 21 create a strong and yet temporary bond between the building and the fabric that is easily broken by pulling apart the VELCRO™ strips. The VELCRO™ strips are preferable and respectively attached to the building with any existing adhesive or glue and to the fabric material by either sewing or adhesive.

In Figure 1 the decorative fabric 19 is shown in the form of a valance with inverted box pleats, a short drapery hung at the top of a structure with the fabric folded equal manner and distance, by pressing the upper pleats towards each other and the under pleats pressed in opposite directions. The invention allows for a wide range of options for the decorative fabric 19 while the mechanics of the complementary engageable fasteners 21 allows for an easy and inexpensive

method of changing the decorative fabric 19 on an exterior façade 15.

Options similar to the goals and versatility of interior curtains are available by altering the fabric weight, content, weave, color and drapery (folds of fabric), with auxiliary embellishments as part of its basic design such as piping, fringe, ties, tassels; or separate additions attached with at appropriate placement, using glue or VELCRO™, such additional attachments including, for example, bows, bells, banners and communications can accent the beauty and look of the of building 17.

Possible artistic options include sun and weather resistant fabric, often used in standard awnings, of colors accenting the house; or seasonal changes such as a light fabric of cotton or linen in light colors of white, beige, tan or blue in solids or stripes draped in a swage or generous flounce for summer decoration. Additional decorations of piping, cording, tassels, fringe or even novelty decorations such as seashells, etc., can either be part of the basic design or an additional option added with a VELCRO™ attachment. The look of the exterior area can easily be changed for evening; an example decoration would be a loose weave metallic fabric.

Autumn lends itself to heavier fabric of colors of gold and oranges or perhaps a forest green with a metallic gold edging. The exterior curtain can easily be changed for Halloween decorations; an example would be a synthetic mesh looking like spider webs with scary auxiliary decorations.

Again, ease of application allows for appropriate changes for holiday decorations. A red, white and blue theme for Memorial Day and Fourth of July

1 can be designed from traditional flag material typically nylon, or a cotton or
2 cotton blend fabric allowing for greater range of print options. Christmas
3 decoration possibilities include traditional, cultural and innovative expression of
4 the holiday. Fabric of dense weave with colors of deep reds, greens and gold in
5 solids or traditional seasonal patterns can be embellished with fringe, tassels
6 and ties; polyester white chiffon can be draped in a swage tied with red bows;
7 nostalgic, religious or humorous decorations are all appropriate for this holiday.

8 Artistic expression of a current cultural fad such as a denim, the diversity
9 of our ethnic culture or sporting events using a variety of fabrics, colors, drapery
10 (folds of fabric), appropriate words such as "HAPPY HOLIDAYS", "WELCOME",
11 "GO TEAM"; auxiliary embellishments as part of its basic design or as additions
12 attached with appropriate VELCRO™ placement including the possibility of
13 decorative lights of safe voltage and placement are all in the range of this
14 application.

15 Referring to Figure 2, the complementary engageable fasteners 21,
16 shown as seen from standing on the porch looking out, comprise complementary
17 engageable fastener strips 21a, 21b, respectively attached to the fabric and the
18 building, for affixing the decorative curtain assembly 11 to the external facade
19 15. The strips 21a, 21b preferably comprise, for example, VELCRO™ tape or
20 strips having co-acting miniature hooks and loops formed of relatively rigid
21 filament material. The decorative curtain assembly 11 is affixed to the building
22 using the action of the VELCRO™ strips 21a, 21b which adhere to together to
23 create a strong attachment and yet temporary bond that is easily broken by

1 simply pulling the two strips 21a, 21b apart.

2 As is well known, VELCRO™ the co-acting miniature hooks and loops, on
3 separate side of the VELCRO™ strip, engage one another so that the
4 VELCRO™ strips adhere together using the same action that is employed when
5 a burr attaches itself to a piece of clothing or the like. One side of the strip 21a
6 of the VELCRO™ tape is attached to the external façade 15 of the building 17 at
7 the appropriate location, using, for example, any suitable existing adhesive or
8 hot glue; while the other side of the strip 21b of VELCRO™ tape is either sewn
9 or appropriately adhered, by hot glue or convention adhesive, in this instance, to
10 top edge of the decorative fabric material 19.

11 In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, one of the VELCRO™
12 strips 21a is attached to an upper inside horizontal surface 25 of the porch 15
13 that run adjacent the ceiling of the porch and the other of the VELCRO™ strips
14 21b is attached to the decorative fabric material 19 at least along one edge 23
15 thereof. The inventor has found that a VELCRO™ strip of about two inches wide
16 is sufficient for affixing the decorative fabric material 19 to the external façade 15
17 of the building 17.

18 Figure 3 illustrates further embodiments of the decorative external curtain
19 assembly 11 wherein the decorative fabric comprises an advertising banner 27
20 applied to an eaves of a commercial building 26, such as a restaurant, retail
21 store or the like. Also shown in Figure 3 is another embodiment of the decorative
22 external curtain assembly 11 wherein the decorative fabric comprises a flag or
23 banner 29 applied to an eaves of a commercial or residential building 28. This

1 invention allows for the commercial communication to be easily and
2 inexpensively changed throughout the year and applicable for a wide range of
3 commercial uses including a small individual business, mass reproduction for a
4 franchise or an artistic expression at a museum.

5 Figure 4 illustrates yet another embodiment of the present invention
6 applied to a façade of temporary, outdoor structure such as a tent. Because this
7 structure is often used for special occasions, and the diversity of occasions is
8 increased because it is often a rental structure, the decorative exterior curtain
9 assembly can be adapted for ease and versatility of decorations similar to the
10 artistic expressions conveyed for Figure 1. One side of the required VELCRO™
11 strip is adhered to the structure while the other side of the VELCRO™ strip is
12 used to attached a variety of decorative items such as fabrics of different
13 weights, weaves, colors, drapes and lengths combined with fringe, piping, ties,
14 tassels to create the desired look, mood and atmosphere for the event along
15 with auxiliary decoration such as wedding bells, reflective stars, lights, etc.

16 As shown in Figure 4, one strip of the VELCRO™ tape 21a is attached to
17 the appropriate edge of the temporary structure 33 and the decorative fabric 19
18 is draped to form three overlapping swags 77 with jabots 88 at each side. This
19 design for the decorative fabric 19 can be constructed so each section; jabot 88,
20 swag 77a and swags 77b; is permanently attached to each other creating a fixed
21 length. The other strip of the VELCRO™ tape 21b is adhered across the entire
22 top edge of the decorative fabric 19 that faces the outside, attaching properly to
23 VELCRO™ tape 21a.

1 This particular design could also be constructed in the following way. The
2 three swags 77 and the jabot 88 that form the decorative fabric 19 would each
3 be constructed separately. Along the top edge of each swag 77 and jabot 88
4 VELCRO™ tape 21b would be attached to the fabric side facing outward.

5 On the right and left sides of swags 77b would have a strip of VELCRO™
6 tape 21a attached parallel to the VELCRO™ tape 21b on the side of the fabric
7 facing inward. The overlap of each section could be manipulated so the length of
8 the decorative fabric 19 could vary to fit the structure. In this embodiment of the
9 invention, a temporary outdoor structure such as a tent 33 the goals and
10 versatility expressed for Figure 1 are available by altering the fabric weight,
11 content, weave, color and drapery (folds of fabric), with auxiliary embellishments
12 as part of its basic design such as piping, fringe, ties, tassels; or separate
13 additions attached with appropriate VELCRO™ placement, for example bows,
14 bells, banners and communications such as "CONGRATULATIONS", "BEST OF
15 LUCK", "ALUMNUS";

16 Figure 5 shows the application of various embodiments of the present
17 invention applied to the balconies of a multi-story building such as an apartment
18 building, office building or hotel. This application allows the possibility of
19 apartment dwellers and occupying commercial entities for above mentioned
20 expression.

21 Although the present invention has been described in terms of specific
22 exemplary embodiments, it will be appreciated that various modifications and
23 alterations might be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the

- 1 spirit and scope of the invention as specified in the following claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1
2 A decorative external curtain assembly is disclosed for applying decorative
3 fabric material to an external facade of a building, the assembly comprising: a
4 sheet of fabric material having top and bottom edges: and complementary
5 engageable fastener strips respectively affixed to the sheet of fabric material and
6 the external façade of the building for fastening at least one edge of the fabric
7 material to the external façade of the building. The engageable fastener strips
8 are preferably made of VELCRO™ Tape having co-acting miniature hooks and
9 loops formed of relatively rigid filament material for fastening the fabric material
10 to the external façade of the building.